Strengthening of the Long-term Modelling and Policy Analysis work

1208. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission are initiating steps to strengthen the long-term modelling and policy analysis work; and

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the changes envisaged to make the Commission's work more meaningful and the manner in which the policy analysis and long-term models for different sectors is likely to be handled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Planning Commission have constituted several Working Groups for policy analysis in key areas such as Agriculture price policy, Balance of payments etc. and for long-term modelling in the Energy and Transport sectors. Also, Planning Commission will be appointing some senior level consultants for these specific tasks of long-term modelling. In this connection the Data Bank for all major sectors in the Commission is being strengthened.

National Council of Science and Technology

1209. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the areas and fields in which the National Council of Science and Technology Communication operates; and

(b) the assistance rendered to Kerala by the National Council of Science and Technology Communication and the expenditure incurred State-wise by the NCSTc during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) is concerned with popularisation of science and technology and inculcation of scientific and technological temper among the people. The Council operates in any and all areas of science and technology which are intimately related to people's lives and everyday living.

tb) Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 75,000 in 1984-85 and Rs. 3,75,000 in 1985-86 was given to Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad for the following purpose;

1. Arranging science exhibition in Calicut;

2. For organising an all Indi* Sastra Kala Jatha;

3. Popularization of astronomy, The expenditure incurred by NCSTC during the last three years, Statewise is given in the table enclosed.